

# Outdoor Report

The week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014



*South Dakota*



## Wildlife Division

**"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"**

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- **Trapping season for Mink, Weasel, Muskrat and Beaver began November 1<sup>st</sup>.**
  - **West River Deer season runs November 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.**
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## Brown County



### Fishing Report:

**Richmond Lake:** No fishing activity. The Walleye bite has not picked up yet this fall.

**Elm Lake:** Anglers are catching Walleye, Crappie and Northern Pike. The bite has been inconsistent lately.

**James River:** Fishing has been slow. The water level on the river has dropped in the last couple of weeks and there isn't much water flow.

**Elm River:** Fishing has been slow lately. The water level is low on the river.



### Hunting Report:

**Pheasants:** Hunters are finding more pheasants in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. The corn harvest is well underway, which is making the pheasants easier to hunt in some areas.

**Goose:** Hunters have had decent success hunting geese. Scouting is the key to success. The geese are feeding in bean stubble and corn stubble. We're starting to see a few snow geese and white-fronted geese in Brown County.

**Duck:** Hunters had good success this weekend hunting ducks. Hunters that hunted in small sloughs and corn stubble fields had the best success. Scouting is the key to success.

**Swan:** Swans have been showing up in good numbers in NE Brown County.

**Deer:** There are still antlerless leftover deer tags in Fault County for the East River Deer season. Brown County has sold out of deer licenses.

**Sand Lake Waterfowl Estimates:** Canada geese 3500, snow geese 50, ducks 22,000 and 130 swans. Most of the ducks on the refuge are gadwalls, mallards, green-winged teal and northern shovelers.

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## Clark County



### Fishing Report:

**Dry Lake #2:** A few anglers are having some limited success.

**Swan Lake:** Little activity.

**Antelope Lake:** Little activity.

**Reid Lake:** Closed to boating. Little activity.

**Casey's Slough:** Anglers are catching a few Walleye from shore in the evenings.

**Indian Springs:** The few anglers that are trying are having some success.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** A few areas of the county have some decent numbers of geese and ducks staged in them. Some ducks and geese have started to move in from the north. Swans are moving through the area. Hunters are reporting decent success for waterfowl, both in the field and on water.

**Deer:** Mornings and evenings are still the most active parts of the day. The rut is drawing near, with bucks starting to chase does. A few hunters have reported success.

**Small Game:** Hunters are reporting about 1 bird per hunter.

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## Codington County



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Kampeska:** This past week was a little cool and windy, keeping most boaters off of the water. Most anglers are reporting a few Walleye with an occasional Bass or Northern Pike. Lunkers inlet still has some activity with the same results.

**Pelican Lake:** No activity.

**Goose Lake:** No change this week. There are still quite a few fishermen fishing the Grover road and catching some Walleye. The boat anglers are having good luck in multiple parts of the lake on Walleye.

**Long Lake:** Some shore fishing activity picking up all around the lake this week. The reports are pretty consistent with about two fish per person, with the opportunity to catch fish over 20 inches.

**Dry Lake:** Not as much activity this week on Dry Lake, but there are still a few boats out there. Reports remain similar to last week, with a few Walleye and Perch.

**Grass Lake:** No activity.

**3rd Ave Pond:** Still offering good opportunity to youngsters in and around town to catch Bluegill, Trout or Sunfish. Some Trout were stocked just recently.

**Stink:** A few Walleye from shore are being caught.



## Hunting Report:

**Ducks:** Ducks seemed to be moving around a little more due to the cool and windy conditions this week. Duck numbers are okay right now, but most hunters are still waiting for the big flocks of mallards.

**Geese:** Most of the geese being harvested are bonus birds by folks targeting ducks in the field. There seems to still be a good number of geese in the county, especially in Watertown city limits and south of Henry. We're still waiting on some cold weather up north to drive down more migrators.

**Pheasants:** The trending report from hunters is better than last year. Most hunters are still having a tough time getting a limit of pheasants in Codington County, however; they are seeing more birds than last year and remain hopeful that corn harvest will increase their chances.

**Deer:** Archery hunters are sitting more hours as rut is in full swing. With harvest in full swing and pheasant hunters moving deer around, archers have a good chance of a deer coming by their stand at all hours of the day.

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## Day County



## Fishing Report:

**Bitter:** Most anglers are fishing from shore and are having decent success catching Walleye and Northern Pike.

**Waubay:** Anglers are having some success catching a few Walleye and Perch. Fishing pressure has decreased with the recent cooler temperatures and high winds.

**Reetz:** Little pressure, with anglers catching a few Walleye and Crappie.

**Lynn:** Most anglers are catching a few Walleye.

**Enemy Swim:** Fishing pressure remains minimal.



## Hunting Report:

**Goose:** Goose numbers remain the same as in previous weeks. Pockets of geese can still be found throughout the county with a wide range of flock sizes. The area has still not experienced any large numbers of northern birds, but a few larger flocks have begun to show up over the past couple of days. Smaller groups of snow geese have started to push into the area. Farmers have continued to harvest crops throughout the week with very little down time in the field. The majority of crops should be harvested within the next two weeks.

**Duck:** The number of resident ducks has become less over the past week, but there are still good numbers in the field. The migration of northern birds is still minimal, but small pockets of northern mallards have been reported in concentrated areas in the western half of the county.

**Pheasant:** Pheasant harvest success remains similar to the previous week. Hunters have reported shooting limits of birds, but over the course of the entire day. These harvested birds were found in localized areas where the majority of the crops have been harvested.

**Swan:** A few swans were observed throughout the county in small numbers.

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## Deuel County



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Alice:** Fishing pressure has been relatively high at times this past week. Anglers are catching a few Walleye, primarily in the evening and early morning hours. A few Northern Pike are being caught, as well.

**Please do not block the road near the culvert. Park in the road ditch and walk to the lake so that the landowners can get vehicles in and out.**

**Bullhead Lake:** Very little activity.

**Round Lake:** Anglers are catching a few Northern Pike from shore.

**Lake Oliver:** No activity.

**School Lake:** Some Northern Pike are being caught near the boat ramp on the north side of the lake.

**Fish Lake:** No activity.

**Lake Ketchum:** No activity.

**Lake Cochrane:** Anglers are catching a few Crappies from boats.

**Clear Lake:** A few Northern Pike are being caught from shore. No boating activity has been observed.



### Hunting Report:

**Canada goose:** Good numbers of Canada geese throughout the county. Most of the geese seem to be in the Clear Lake area, as well as the northwest corner of the county.

**Duck:** Duck numbers are still low at this time. Many of the local ducks have moved out of the area and the migration has yet to happen.

**Pheasant:** Finding birds remains difficult, but there are certainly more birds this year than last year. The corn harvest is well underway.

**Deer:** Deer activity and movement has increased in the last week. Much of the corn has been harvested, so the deer are being seen more often.

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## Faulk County



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Faulkton:** No fishing activity observed.



### Hunting Report:

**Canada goose:** Scouting is the key to finding the fields they are feeding in. There are huntable numbers of geese scattered across the county. We're still waiting for the main migration of waterfowl.

**Duck:** Most ducks are in northern and eastern Faulk County.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are having the best luck in eastern Faulk County. Most of the crops are now out.

**Deer:** The rut is beginning to start. Archery hunters are starting to see bucks.

**Swans:** There are scattered bunches of swans in the Scatterwood Lake area.

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## Grant County



### Fishing Report:

**Big Stone Lake:** The Perch bite has slowed down some in the last few weeks; however, a few Perch are still being caught. Walleye reports have been limited due to the fact that most anglers are targeting the Perch.

**Summit Lake:** No reports of activity.

**Hunter's Quarry:** Fishing pressure has been low, but the opportunity to catch Trout still exists.



### Hunting Report:

**Canada goose:** Canada goose numbers continue to be good throughout the county. Hunting pressure has been low. Scouting continues to be important.

**Ducks:** Duck hunting has been difficult over the last few weeks. Many of the local ducks have moved out of the area and the main push of the migration has yet to make its way into the county.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are going to have to work hard and walk a lot to find success. Success has been low so far this season.

**Deer:** Deer movement has increased as the farmers continue to harvest corn.

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## Hamlin County



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Poinsett:** Very slow again this week. A few boaters are reporting some keeper Walleye and a few Perch.

**Fedt Slough:** A few shore fishermen this week. Reports range from small Perch to nicer Walleye.

**Three Buck:** No fishing activity.

**Lake Norden:** No fishing activity.

**Lake Albert:** No fishing activity.

**Lake Mary/John:** No fishing activity.

**Clear Lake (Thomas):** Some smaller Walleye, but nothing consistent.



## Hunting Report:

**Ducks:** Cooler temperatures with wind provided a little better conditions for duck hunters this week. There are plenty of ducks in the Hazel area; we just need some weather up north to help drive down some migrators.

**Geese:** Goose numbers in the county are still pretty good. Hunter numbers are still pretty minimal. The Michelson Marsh area along with the Hazel area is holding quite a few geese.

**Pheasants:** Bird numbers look better than last year, so we are headed in the right direction according to most hunters. Everyone is reporting tough harvest, but at least they are seeing more birds and everyone claims to be seeing more hens. With harvest and cool temperatures to come, things should pick up.

**Deer:** With harvest and pheasant hunting going on, the opportunity to see a deer come by the stand is pretty high. Most archers are taking to the stand more as we move further into the fall and rut goes into full swing.

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## Marshall County



### Fishing Report:

**White Lake:** Little to no activity.

**Piyas Lake:** Walleye fishing has slowed down a bit. The Perch bite is still going well. **Reminder: 15 inch minimum on Walleye.**

**South Buffalo:** Anglers are still catching good numbers of Bluegill, Crappie and the occasional Northern Pike.

**Stink Lake:** Slow.

**Cattail Grade:** Slow.

**Roy Lake:** Decent fall bite going on for Bass and Walleye.

**Clear Lake:** Great Smallmouth Bass bite along the main lake points and submerged structures. **Reminder: If you catch a tagged Smallmouth Bass – do not remove the tag; call the number listed on the tag to assist in the current study being conducted on this lake.**



## Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** Waterfowl numbers have increased significantly in the county. Colder temperatures later this week will push more waterfowl into the area. All portions of the county have huntable numbers of waterfowl. Most species are utilizing cut corn to feed in the mornings and evenings. Scouting is the key to success. Please obtain permission before entering private land.

**Deer:** The rut is in full swing. I have observed smaller bucks chasing does. The next couple of weeks should be a great time to be in the stand.

**Pheasant:** The pheasant numbers are looking good in the western portion of the county. Hunters that are walking grass next to cut agricultural fields seem to be having the best success.

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# McPherson & Edmunds Counties



## Fishing Report:

**Scatterwood Lake:** Very little fishing activity.

**Long Lake:** No activity.

**Eureka Lake:** No activity.

**Mina Lake:** Very little fishing activity.

**Anderson Slough:** No activity.



## Hunting Report:

**Pheasant:** Success was not very good. Hunters averaged about 1.5 birds per person since opening weekend. Hunters are finding birds in standing corn and corn that has just been harvested or in slough areas. Hunters reported seeing minimal birds. Hunter numbers were down.

**Goose:** McPherson County is not holding very many geese. Most geese in this area can be found from Roscoe to Bowdle and up to the Hosmer area. There is very little hunting pressure.

**Dove:** Most have migrated south due to the colder temperatures.

**Grouse:** Grouse numbers are low. McPherson County is the best place to try.

**Duck:** Good numbers of ducks in both counties. The Ipswich to Bowdle area and south of HWY 12 is holding the largest concentration of ducks. Some good pockets of ducks can be found in both counties. Hunters are having good luck decoying ducks in partially harvested corn fields.

**Swan:** Good numbers of swans in McPherson County. A few small pockets of swans can be found in Edmunds County. North of HWY 10 in McPherson County is holding the most Swans.

**Sandhill Crane:** A few cranes started to show up in McPherson County. The central parts of both counties are seeing the highest number of cranes. Numbers in this area are still low and I would expect the number of cranes to pick up this week.

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## Roberts County



## Fishing Report:

**Lake Traverse:** Walleye action is good throughout the lake, as well as the Mystinka River.

**Dry Wood Lake:** Walleye bite is good.



## Hunting Report:

**Goose:** Numbers are good throughout the county. Scouting is the key to success.

**Duck:** Duck numbers are okay and we're just starting to see a few new birds move into the county. Some field hunters did find some birds, but it was slow.

**Swan:** A few swans are starting to show up.

**Grouse:** Grouse numbers are low, but a few can be found on the coteau.

**Pheasant:** Hunters had difficulty finding birds, mostly due to all the corn being in the fields yet. Best success came in hunting CRP, sloughs or grass, towards evening.

**Deer:** Youth hunters and archers are finding a few deer moving around.

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## Spink County



### Fishing Report:

**Twin Lake:** Fishing activity is slow.

**Mud Lake:** No fishing activity observed.

**Cottonwood Lake:** The Walleye bite has slowed down.

**Redfield Lake:** No fishing activity.

**Turtle Creek:** No fishing activity.

**James River:** Anglers are catching some Walleyes. The river level is low.



### Hunting Report: The beans are mostly all harvested. Corn is quickly getting harvested.

**Goose:** There are some new groups of geese in the county. There are some good sized flocks feeding in corn fields.

**Duck:** Hunters are having decent success on Mansfield Slough and corn fields in the county. There still hasn't been much of a push of migratory waterfowl.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are having more luck with most of the crops being harvested. Everyone is having some luck. A lot of young roosters are getting harvested.

**Deer:** A few bucks have been harvested by archery hunters.

**Swan:** There are some swans in the northern part of the county.